

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00957 281411Z

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 INR-10 SS-15 L-03 SPC-03

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R 281245Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4141

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0957

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MP, CO, MILI

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING SUPPORT FOR NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION
(NCS) DIEGO GARCIA, BIOT

REF: BANGKOK 15036

1. REPEATING REFTEL TO DEPARTMENT.
2. INQUIRY NOTED PARA 1 OF BANGKOK'S 15036 APPARENTLY BASED ON PARA 7A OF AMEBASSY LONDON'S NOTE NUMBER 25, DECEMBER 30, 1966, WHICH STATES THAT USG AND US CONTRACTORS SHALL MAKE USE OF WORKERS FROM MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES TO MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE CONSISTENT RPT CONSISTENT WITH US POLICIES, REQUIREMENTS, AND SCHEDULES.
3. BASED ON THIS ARTICLE, OICC THAILAND WISHES SEND OFFICIAL TO STUDY ARCHITECT-ENGINEER POTENTIALITIES IN MAURITIUS WITH VIEW TOWARD FUTURE CONSTRUCTION ON DIEGO GARCIA.
4. SINCE CANCELLATION MONTHLY FFV FLIGHTS, EMBASSY HAS BEEN OPERATING ON PREMISE THAT SO LONG AS DIEGO GARCIA REMAINS "OVER THE HORIZON" WITH LOGISTIC SUPPORT WHOLLY FROM WITHOUT AFRICAN AREA, ENTIRE BIOT ISSUE WILL RECEIVE LITTLE ATTENTION IN MAURITIUS. THIS HAS LARGELY BEEN THE CASE. PERIODICALLY,
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PAGE 02 PORT L 00957 281411Z

QUESTIONS ARE RAISED IN MAURITIUS' LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND IN

LOCAL PRESS CONCERNING PLIGHT OF ILOIS WHO HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, BUT OTHERWISE INSTALLATION AT DIEGO GARCIA IS ALMOST NEVER MENTIONED. ASSUME THIS IS THE WAY DEPARTMENT PREFERS IT.

5. ON PRACTICAL SIDE, WITH MAURITIUS UNDERGOING PRESENT BOOM IN CONSTRUCTION, THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE SCARCITY OF TYPE PERSONNEL OICC WISHES TO CANVASS. EMBASSY HARBORS DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER LOCAL FIRMS MIGHT WISH UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION ON DIEGO GARCIA GIVEN FOREGOING CIRCUMSTANCES, PLUS TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES. FACT THAT INQUIRIES BEING MADE WOULD, HOWEVER, BECOME KNOWN PUBLICLY.

6. HAVE INFORMALLY DISCUSSED PARA 7A OF NOTE NUMBER 25 WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE. HE STATES SITUATION FAR DIFFERENT NOW THAN IT WAS IN 1966 WHEN WAS FELT U.S. AND U.K. SHOULD ASSIST MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES WITH UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. HE ALSO CITED HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN MAURITUS AND BELIEVED RELUCTANCE OF MAJOR FIRMS TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS.

7. AS FOR SECONDARY PURPOSES OF PROPOSED OICC TRIP, EMBASSY MAINTAINS SOLID CONTACTS WITH MAURITIUS METEO SERVICES (WE RECENTLY ARRANGED THROUGH NASA STATION IN TANANARIVE FOR REPAIR OF METEO'S AUTOMATIC PICTURE TRANSMISSION FACILITIES, USED IN CYCLONE SEASON). BELIEVE EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN INFORMATION DESIRED IF DETAILS FURNISHED ON WHAT NEEDED.

8. EMBASSY QUESTIONS WHETHER THIS TRIP IS NECESSARY. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
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